

...a very unsteady kind of Life to pay Man this...
...Divided of their Passions and their...
...which...
...we have...

HIS GRACE THE Duke of Buckingham

...in order to the...
...of this...
...in this...
...a very great...
...Point of Religion.

SPEECH FOR Liberty of Conscience In M.DC.LXXII.

And it is, I conceive, a Mistake in...
...it is positively...

Licens'd April 25th 1689.
...is something in it...
...for we...
...and therefore in us, it is...

TO THE READER
Having by me a short Speech of the late Duke of Buckingham's, under his
own Hand, relating to Liberty of Conscience, I thought this a pro-
per Person to Publish it. If you are not of my Opinion, it will take up so lit-
tle of your time to read it, that you may easily Pardon

Your Humble Servant
I know very well, I think he conveys to be useful to...
I thought it more respectful to your Lordships to ask your leave for it, be-
fore I cannot think the doing of it will be of any Prejudice to the Bill, be-
cause I am confident the Matter is just, and the...
will be able to...

MT LORDS,
There is a Thing call'd Property, which (whatever some Men may
think) is that the People of England are fondest of, it is that they
will never part with, and it is that His Majesty, in His Speech, has promis'd
us to take a particular Care of.

This, my Lords, in my Opinion, can never be done, without giving an
Indulgence to all Protestant Dissenters.
LONDON: Printed for J. ...
A

It is certainly a very uneasy kind of Life to any Man that has either *Christian Charity, Humanity, or Good Nature*; to see his Fellow Subjects daily Abus'd, Diverted of their Liberty and Birthrights, and miserably thrown out of their Possessions and Freeholds, only because they cannot Agree with others in some *Niceties of Religion*, which their *Consciences* will not give them leave to consent to; and which even, by the *Confession* of the *Church*, is a way **NECESSARY TO SALVATION.**

But (*my Lords*) besides this, and all that may be said upon it, in order to the *Improvement of our Trade*, and the *Increase of the Wealth, Strength, and Government of this Nation*, (which, under Favor, I shall presume to discourse of at some other time) there is, methinks, in this Notion of *Persecution*, a very gross Mistake, both as to the *Point of Government*, and the *Point of Religion*.

There is so as to the *Point of Government*, because it makes every Man's Safety depend on the wrong Place, not upon the *Governor*, or a Man's living well towards the *Civil Government Established by Law*, but upon his being transported with Zeal for every Opinion that is held by those that have Power in the Church then in Fashion.

And it is, I conceive, a Mistake in Religion, because it is positively against the *Express Doctrine and Example of Jesus Christ*.

Nay, (*my Lords*) as to our *Protestant Religion*, there is something in it yet worse; for we *Protestants* maintain, That none of those *Opinions*, which *Christians* differ about, are *Infallible*; and therefore in us, it is somewhat an inexcusable Conception, That Men ought to be deprived of their *Inheritance*, and all the certain *Conveniencies and Advantages of Life*, because they will not agree with us in our uncertain *Opinions of Religion*.

My humble Motion therefore to your Lordships is, That you will give me leave to bring in a Bill of *Indulgence to all Dissenting Protestants*.

I know very well, That every *Peer of this Realm* has a Right to bring in to *Parliament* any Bill which he conceives to be useful to this Nation: But I thought it more respectful to your Lordships to ask your Leave for it before, I cannot think the doing of it will be of any Prejudice to the Bill, because I am confident the *Reason, the Prudence, and the Charitableness* of it, will be able to justify itself to this *House*, and to the whole *World*.

There is a *Third* (which I have not yet said) that I think is that the People of England are fond of it, and that they will never part with it, and it is that His Majesty's Speech has promised us to take a particular Care of it.

LONDON, Printed for J. Currie near Fleet-bridge, 1689.

Liberty of Conscience